

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 1 and ending on line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

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Q2 --However, this assay has a problem in that the surfactant, which needs to be used in a sufficient concentration for hemolysis, affects the antigen-antibody reaction and a sufficient response cannot be obtained.--

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Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 4 and ending on line 15, with the following rewritten paragraph:

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Q3 --As the erythrocyte lysing agent contained in the aqueous solution used for diluting the resulting agglutination mixture, suitable agents that can be used are those capable of not only destroying the membrane of erythrocytes but also dissolving or contracting the membrane. For example, usable are surfactants usually used in the field of counting blood cells for lysing erythrocytes. Particularly, water-soluble surfactants may be mentioned. The water-soluble surfactants may be cationic, anionic, non-ionic or ampholytic. Among these, those having a stronger hydrophobic nature in a hydrophobic part (a larger carbon number) are more preferable because they have a greater ability to lyse erythrocytes.--

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